

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10253 111659Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

-----050368 111701Z /46

O 101638Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4808
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10253

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA FIVE)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 & 2
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, MILL, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: ERSKINE/EITAN MEETING AUGUST 9

REF: USUN 3150

1. AFTER READING UN REPORT ON LATEST MEETING BETWEEN ERSKINE AND EITAN, I CALLED WEIZMAN LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 10. I BEGAN BY TELLING HIM THAT FOLLOWING OUR SOMBER MEETING OF LAST EVENING, THE NEWS WE HAD RECEIVED THIS MORNING FROM BEIRUT WAS ENCOURAGING, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. A CEASEFIRE SEEMED TO BE IN EFFECT. MORE IMPORTANT, THERE WAS SOME WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM STRONG POINTS IN EAST BEIRUT, AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY LEBANESE ELEMENTS. THIS WAS ONLY A START, BUT IT WAS A START. WEIZMAN AGREED.

2. I NEXT MOVED TO THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF MY CALL. I

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 10253 111659Z

TOLD WEIZMAN THAT THE ERSKINE-EITAN MEETING WAS CAUSING REAL PROBLEMS. AT THE SAME TIME WEIZMAN AND THE TOP PEOPLE IN THE CABINET WERE ASSURING ME THAT THEY SUPPORTED THE MOVE BY HELICOPTER OF ONE LAF COMPANY TO TIBNIN AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THAT TRANSIT, EITAN WAS TELLING ERSKINE A CONTRADICTIONARY MESSAGE AND ADVISING AGAINST ANY FURTHER MOVEMENT OF THE

LEBANESE BATTALION. THE REPORT OF THE EITAN-ERSKINE MEETING, AND EITAN'S COMMENTS, WERE CIRCULATING AROUND BEIRUT, THE UN, WASHINGTON AND EVERYWHERE ELSE, AND WERE NOT HELPFUL.

3. WEIZMAN IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT ISRAEL'S POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED. IF THE LEBANESE DECIDE TO GO BY HELICOPTER, WEIZMAN WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THEY GET TO THEIR DESTINATION SAFELY. HE COULD NOT GIVE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE BECAUSE THERE WERE "CRAZY PEOPLE" INVOLVED, BUT HE WOULD CERTAINLY DO HIS BEST.

4. WEIZMAN SAID HE WOULD TALK THE MATTER OVER WITH EITAN AND CALL ME BACK IN 30 MINUTES.

5. WHEN HE GOT BACK IN TOUCH, WEIZMAN SAID EITAN WAS IN HIS OFFICE AND HAD A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO EITAN, HE HAD SAID THAT IF THE LAF UNIT WENT BY HELICOPTER, THE ISRAELIS WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE ITS SAFETY, BUT COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT SOMEONE IN THE ENCLAVES WOULD NOT OPEN UP WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE. WEIZMAN SAID THAT HE KNEW THERE WERE REPORTS THAT EITAN WAS NOT TALKING IN A WAY WHICH WAS CONSISTENT WITH GOI POLICY. WEIZMAN WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT INDEED EITAN WAS EXPRESSING GOI POLICY. IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP MISUNDERSTANDING, WEIZMAN SUGGESTED THAT ARMA COL. WILLIAMS MEET TONIGHT AT 2000 HOURS WITH EITAN TO GET DIRECTLY HIS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 10253 111659Z

VERSION OF THE MEETING WITH ERSKINE. BEN GAL WILL ALSO BE PRESENT IF THAT CAN BE ARRANGED. I IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THAT CONVERSATION LATER THIS EVENING.

6. COMMENT: WEIZMAN WAS OBVIOUSLY IN A TROUBLED POSITION. I GOT THE FEELING THAT HE IS NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT WHAT HE IS BEING TOLD BY HIS SUBORDINATES IS TRUE. ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT HE TRUSTS EITAN. IN ANY EVENT, MOST IMPORTANT POINT OUT OF THESE TWO CONVERSATIONS IS WEIZMAN'S ASSURANCE THAT GOI CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MOVEMENT OF ONE LAF COMPANY FROM KAWKABA TO TIBNIN BY HELICOPTER. I RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR PARKER MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR TO LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV10253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 & 2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780343-0641, D780327-1193
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780876/aaaactlp.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b7b85b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 3150
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1774465
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERSKINE/EITAN MEETING AUGUST 9
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, MILI, IS, LE, XF, UNSC, (ERSKINE, EMMANUEAL A), (EITAN, RAFAEL)
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b7b85b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014